GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:364
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
CLIMATIC CHANGES DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the climatic changes due to global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether severe droughts and unpredictable hailstorms are due to these climatic changes;

(d) whether the global warming is expected to affect the agricultural production adversely; and

(e) if so, the preventive measures taken by the government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a & b) Yes, Sir. According to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the globally averaged surface temperature has been reported to have increased by 0.6(C since 1860 mainly due to anthropogenic reasons. The Government is aware of the possible climatic changes due to global warming.

(c) The assessment by IPCC indicates a likelihood of increase in frequency of droughts and heavy rainfall events on account of global warming. However, Indian records over the past 130 years do not indicate any marked long-term trend in the frequencies of large-scale droughts or floods and other extreme events.

(d) Present assessments based on crop growth models indicate possibilities of adverse effects on agriculture over tropical regions, but the effect of global warming at regional and sub-regional levels is not clearly understood.

(e) Various measures have been taken to strengthen S&T Capacity for impact assessment, and work out adaptation and mitigation strategies for agriculture. These include programmes and schemes to conserve scarce natural resources and promote practices leading to sustainable agriculture through more efficient resource use.